Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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UNCLAS WARSAW 5104

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: OEXC, PL

SUBJECT: VISIT OF LEONARD MARKS

REF STATE 176247

- 1. WITH SOME CHAGRIN AND CONSIDERABLE REGRET, WE REPORT THAT POLISH SIDE IS COMPLETELY UNABLE TO ACCOMMODATE VISIT OF MARKS' GROUP DURING THIS MONTH.
- 2. KONOPACKI REVIEWED SITUATION IN LONG CONVERSATION THIS MORNING WITH PAO, REPORTING HIS OWN INSTRUCTIONS FROM MFA VICE MINISTER SPASOWSKI. "IN THE FIRST PLACE," KONOPACKI SAID, "WE WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE HOW IMPORTANT WE CONSIDER THIS VISIT TO BE. WE ARE VERY INTERESTED IN TALKING WITH MR. MARKS AND HIS COLLEAGUES, PARTICULARLY AFTER THE VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT, THE SIGNING OF THE CSCE DOCUMENT, AND THE APPROACHING BICENTENNIAL YEAR."
- 3. THE TIMING, HOWEVER, IS "DRAMATICALLY BAD," KONOPACKI CONTINUED. "ALL OF THE PEOPLE WHO WOULD BE INVOLVED ARE ON VACATION, AND WE WON'T SEE THEM UNTIL THE END OF AUGUST. MOREOVER, DURING THE EXACT SAME TIME, THERE WILL BE A LONG-SCHEDULED OFFICIAL CULTURAL MISSION FROM CANADA WHICH WILL OCCUPY CULTURAL MINISTRY PERSONNEL." KONOPACKI WENT DOWN THE LIST OF OFFICIALS, ACADEMICIANS, AND CULTURAL PERSONALITIES WHOM IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE VISITORS TO MEET, NOTING IN EVERY SINGLE INSTANCE THAT THAT PERSON WOULD NOT BE IN THE CITY DURING AUGUST. SPASOWSKI AND KINAST, HE CONFIDED, UNCLASSIFIED

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WOULD NOT EVEN BE IN POLAND AT THE TIME OF THE PROPOSED

VISIT.

4. PAO REITERATED TO KONOPACKI THAT WE HAD KNOWN ALL ALONG THAT THE TIMING WAS NOT OPTIMAL AND THAT IT WAS GEARED TO MR. MARKS'S ATTENDANCE AT THE OPENING OF A U.S. EXHIBIT IN MOSCOW, ADDING THAT PAWLISZEWSKI'S WARNING THAT APPROPRIATE-LEVEL OFFICIALS WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE HAD ALREADY BEEN COMMUNICATED TO THE DEPARTMENT. IN REPLY, KONOPACKI DECLARED THAT "NOBODY, LITERALLY NOBODY" WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO MEET WITH THE VISITORS.

5. PAO THEN SAID THAT HE WOULD REPORT MFA COMMENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT AND POINT OUT THAT PROGRAMMING WOULD NECESSARILY BE RESTRICTED TO DISCUSSIONS WITHIN THE EMBASSY, TO WHICH KONOPACKI REPLIED, "IF THE VISIT AT THIS TIME PRECLUDES A FURTHER VISIT, IT SIMPLY DOESN'T MAKE SENSE. WE WOULD LIKE A GROUP OF THIS IMPORTANCE TO VISIT AT A TIME THEY COULD BE APPROPIATELY RECEIVED." POINTING TO THE COPY OF THE LATEST ADVISORY COMMISSION REPORT AND PAO'S LETTER CONCERNING WHAT THE GROUP WISHED TO DO IN POLAND, KONOPACKI EXCLAIMED, "POLAND IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF EASTERN EUROPE, AND WE WOULD LIKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT OUR IDEAS ON THE PHILOSOPHY OF EAST-WEST EXCHANGES TO MR. MARKS AND HIS COLLEAGUES. I REPEAT, FOR THEM TO COME HERE IN AUGUST SIMPLY DOESN'T MAKE SENSE. ONLY BY MID-SEPTEMBER AT THE EARLIEST COULD WE SET UP A SENSIBLE PROGRAM FOR THEM".

6. WE, OF COURSE, ARE AWARE OF PROBLEMS FOR REST OF SCHEDULE POSED BY THIS TURN OF EVENTS. ONLY YESTERDAY, PAWLISZEWSKI TOLD PAO THAT HE WOULD GO ON LEAVE TODAY, BUT THAT WUJEK WOULD BE WORKING ON PROGRAM AND BE IN TOUCH WITH US SHORTLY. APOLOGIZING FOR HIS NEGATIVE MESSAGE TODAY, KONOPACKI EXPLAINED THAT "ONLY LAST NIGHT SPASOWSKI AND KINAST FOCUSED ON VISIT" AND GAVE HIM INSTRUCTIONS. "WE WOULD HAVE GOTTEN TO IT SOONER," HE SAID, "BUT WERE DELAYED BY THE DETAILS OF THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT."

7. ON BASIS OF STRONG POLISH PRESENTATION AND THE OBVIOUS SINCERITY OF THE POLES' DESIRE TO DISCUSS CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL MATTERS AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL, I RECOMMEND THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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THE VISIT TO POLAND BE POSTPONED TO A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT FUTURE TIME.

DAVIES

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